

Serial No.: 10/089,399
Examiner: Jan M. Ludlow
Title: LIQUID HOMOGENIZING UNIT AND HIGH SPEED LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPH EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME
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OCT 11 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A liquid homogenizing unit comprising:
a cell including a front surface and a back surface opposite to the front surface;
a supply flow path and a discharge flow path;
a first intermediate flow path which communicates with the supply flow path;
[[and]]
a second intermediate flow path which communicates with the first intermediate flow path and the discharge flow path;
a first cover body disposed on the front surface of the cell; and
a second cover body disposed on the back surface of the cell;
wherein the supply flow path, the discharge flow path, the first intermediate flow path and the second intermediate flow path are formed integrally in the cell,
wherein the first intermediate flow path extends in an intersecting direction relative to the second intermediate flow path, ~~the first intermediate flow path tapering from the supply flow path toward the second intermediate flow path.~~
~~wherein the second intermediate flow path extends rectilinearly through the cell from the front surface to the back surface, the supply flow path being open toward the front surface, the first intermediate flow path connecting the supply flow path and the second intermediate flow path at the front surface, the discharge flow path being open toward the back surface and communicating with the second intermediate flow path, the first cover body being arranged to close off the supply flow path, the first intermediate flow path and the second intermediate flow path, the second cover body being arranged to close off the second intermediate flow path and the discharge flow path.~~
2. (Original) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein the second intermediate flow path is substantially cylindrical, the first intermediate flow path

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being connected to the second intermediate flow path at a position that is offset from an axis of the second intermediate flow path.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein the second intermediate flow path is substantially cylindrical, the first intermediate flow path including a first portion that is connected to the supply flow path and a second portion that is connected to the second intermediate flow path, the first portion tapering from the supply flow path toward the second portion, and wherein the second portion has a uniform cross section and is connected to the second intermediate flow path at a position that is offset from an axis of the second intermediate flow path.

7. (Original) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 6, wherein the second portion of the first intermediate flow path extends at right angles to the second intermediate flow path.

8. (Withdrawn) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein each of the supply flow path and the second intermediate flow path has a substantially circular cross section, the first intermediate flow path including a first portion that is connected to the supply flow path and a second portion that is connected to the second intermediate flow path, the first portion extending at an offset position from an axis of the supply flow path, the second portion flaring from the first portion toward the second intermediate flow path.

9. (Original) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein the first intermediate flow path has a smaller cross section than the second intermediate flow path.

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10. (Withdrawn) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1, wherein the supply flow path and the first intermediate flow path are connected to each other at an obtuse angle.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The liquid homogenizing unit according to claim 1[[11]], wherein each of the first and second cover bodies has a transparent part that corresponds to at least the second intermediate flow path, and the second intermediate flow path is a measurement flow path for absorbance measurement.

13. (Currently amended) A high-performance liquid chromatography apparatus comprising a column, and a detector used for absorbance detection with respect to an eluate from the column;

wherein the detector comprises a cell with a front surface and a back surface, a supply flow path into which the eluate from the column flows, a measurement flow path used for absorbance measurement of the eluate, a discharge flow path for discharging the eluate to an outside of the detector following the absorbance measurement, and an eddy current generating path for conducting the eluate from the supply flow path into the measurement flow path, a first cover body disposed on the front surface of the cell, and a second cover body disposed on the back surface of the cell.

wherein the supply flow path, the measurement flow path, the discharge flow path and the eddy current generating path are formed integrally in the cell,

wherein the eddy current generating path extends in an intersecting direction relative to the measurement flow path ~~and tapers from the supply flow path toward the measurement flow path~~ for generating an eddy current inside the measurement flow path, [[.]]

wherein the measurement flow path extends rectilinearly through the cell from the front surface to the back surface, the supply flow path being open toward the front surface, the eddy current generating path connecting the supply flow path and the

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measurement flow path at the front surface, the discharge flow path being open toward the back surface and communicating with the measurement flow path, the first cover body being arranged to close off the supply flow path, the eddy current generating path and the measurement flow path, the second cover body being arranged to close off the measurement flow path and the discharge flow path.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The high-performance liquid chromatography apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the measurement flow path is substantially cylindrical, the eddy current generating path being connected to the measurement flow path at a position that is offset from an axis of the measurement flow path.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Withdrawn) The high-performance liquid chromatography apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the eddy current generating path has a uniform cross section.

19. (Withdrawn) The high-performance liquid chromatography apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the eddy current generating path extends at right angles to the measurement flow path.

20. (Original) The high-performance liquid chromatography apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the eddy current generating path has a smaller cross section than each of the supply flow path and the measurement flow path.